

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Kuo combined with Kosterka and U.S. Patent 3,933,407 to Tu.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections by directing the Examiner's attention to the comparative data in the Application (page 33, line 27 to page 36, line 15) as objective evidence establishing non-obviousness.

As described in the Example section of the Application, eight samples of printed anti-fog films (Sample Nos. 1-8) were formed by applying a solvent-based ink formulation to one side of equivalent plastic films that incorporated 3% antifog agent in the outer layers. (Page 35, lines 7-16.) The "comparison" films of Samples Nos. 1-2 did not include either a radiation-cured varnish or a two-part reactive thermoset varnish on the print of the anti-fog film. Samples Nos. 3-6 were made according to the present invention because a cured overprint varnish (i.e., electron-beam curable overprint varnish) was on the print of the antifog film. (Page 35, lines 17-21.) Samples Nos. 7-8 were made according to the present invention because a cured overprint varnish (i.e., a two-part reactive thermoset varnish) was on the print of the antifog film. (Page 35, line 21 to page 36, line 2.)

Each of Samples 1-8 were subjected to conditions simulating storage of the printed films in roll form, which is the believed cause of "ghosting" (explained in the Application, page 2, lines 4-19). The comparative Samples 1-2 demonstrated deteriorated antifog characteristics, as shown by the Antifog Ratings of 1; whereas, the Samples 3-8 according to the present invention did not demonstrate any significant deterioration of antifog characteristics, as shown by the Antifog Ratings of 4.5 to 5 ("excellent").

There was no reason to have expected that the use of a radiation-cured overprint varnish or a thermoset varnish with a printed anti-fog film would cause the Samples 3-8 films to have superior anti-fog performance after exposure to ghosting-inducing conditions, as shown by the comparative data.

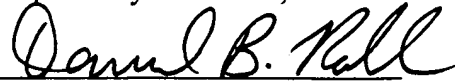
In view of these remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

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